



FOLK

Friends of Lovers Key July 2025



*Friends of Lovers Key
"Beauty and the Beach Gala"*

*Havana
Nights*

Save the Date

Welcome & Discovery Center
5:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
February 21, 2026

Fishing line Is A Deathtrap for Wildlife



This young male dolphin was spotted under Big San Carlos Bridge, entangled in fishing line and reported to FWC. Several weeks passed before the dolphin and its mother were able to be captured. The mother was released..... but the injuries to the long suffering young male were too serious and had to be mercifully euthanized on site. The mother was released unharmed.

What Can You Do?

While many anglers dispose of line in responsible ways, all it takes are a few uninformed or lazy people to make others look bad and cause coastal animals to suffer.

Not only can animals become entangled in old fishing line and die or suffer multiple injuries, but boats can suffer damage if old fishing line is caught between the hooks and lines caught on branches. The line can harm animals causing them to become tangled on legs, wings, and beaks of birds. They can sustain crippling injuries after one or both of their legs become wrapped in fishing line. A hook caught in a beak or mouth can make eating painful or impossible, resulting in death by starvation.

Fishing line entangles animals, leaving them vulnerable to predators, starvation, and drowning. As they struggle, the line becomes tighter, cutting off circulation and severing wings or legs.



Credit:
Savecoastalwildlife.org

You can take used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins or local tackle shop.

Did you know purchasing a membership gets you 12 free entries into the park with up to 8 people in your car? We offer 3 different membership levels. **Plus, the funds raised help FOLK fund all we do for the park!**

\$50 a year

\$80 a year

\$1,500 lifetime

 FOLK Friends of Lovers Key, Inc. Protecting...Preserving...Supporting...Lovers Key State Park Family Membership											
Name _____											
Expires _____											
This membership card entitles holder to 12 free entries to Lovers Key State Park.											
See back for additional member benefits and important notice.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

 FOLK Friends of Lovers Key, Inc. Protecting...Preserving...Supporting...Lovers Key State Park Patron Membership											
Name _____											
Expires _____											
This membership card entitles holder to 12 free entries to Lovers Key State Park.											
See back for additional member benefits and important notice.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

 FOLK Friends of Lovers Key, Inc. Protecting...Preserving...Supporting...Lovers Key State Park Lifetime Partner Membership											
Name _____											
Expires _____											
This membership card entitles holder to 12 free entries to Lovers Key State Park.											
See back for additional member benefits and important notice.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Meet Ranger Cody Bellan

For Ranger Cody Bellan, becoming a Park Ranger is more than a job—it's a calling that blends his passion for nature, people, and problem-solving. Before joining the park service, Cody was a trained plumber and diesel mechanic, among other trades. He now applies those hands-on skills every day to support our



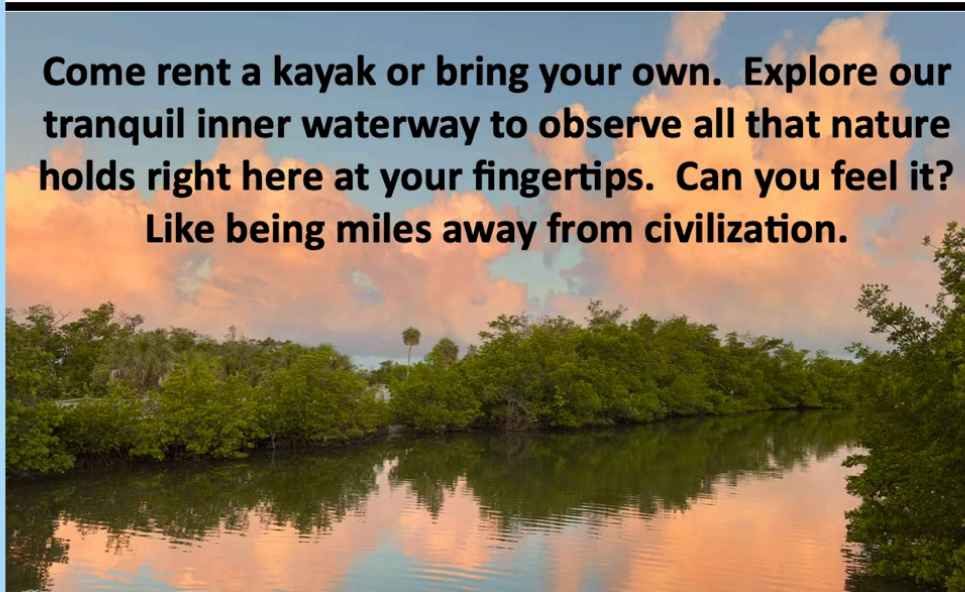
maintenance team and help keep the park safe, clean, and running smoothly

Cody finds joy in the little moments that make a big difference—fixing what's broken, lending a hand, or taking time to connect with visitors. He especially enjoys talking with guests about fishing, wildlife, and the hidden wonders of the park. With a fresh set of eyes, he's already brought new ideas and creative solutions to the team—showing that a new perspective can make a big impact.

Off the clock, you'll find him with a fishing rod, a book, or enjoying time with a four-legged friend. Curious, kind, and always eager to learn something new, Cody brings heart, skill, and a genuine love for the outdoors to every part of his work.

We're thrilled to welcome Cody to the team and excited to see the many ways he'll continue to grow and contribute here at Lovers Key!

Come rent a kayak or bring your own. Explore our tranquil inner waterway to observe all that nature holds right here at your fingertips. Can you feel it? Like being miles away from civilization.



The Rangers spotted a nursing baby manatee with mom and took a moment to absolutely gush over the most heart-meltingly, soul-warming, irresistibly precious little tater-tot! There is so much to see amongst the beauty of the park. Explore beyond our vast undisturbed natural beach and take in the wonder of nature's gifts on our (your!) island. No matter how often you visit, there is always something new. When you explore the island trails, listen to the sounds of nature and observe how the flourishing landscape changes with the seasons. Take binoculars and bug spray along as you wander.... Because this is the true old-Florida back to nature experience.



We want you to have fun here at *Lovers Key State Park Beach*!

But.... please leave nothing behind including holes you have dug in the sand! This hole could have trapped a mother turtle coming on shore to lay her eggs.



"A predator (probably coyote) just raided a sea turtle nest on Sanibel. Those poor eggs never had a chance."

~Peter Busch

Photo credit: [Jorgen Asteberg](#)

This is why we work so hard to protect our sea turtle nests. Please help us buy more supplies to protect our sea turtle nests. Hatchlings have such a low survival rate in the waters as it is, however, we can try to be sure they make it to the hatchling stage.



ADOPT-A-NEST PROGRAM



FRIENDS, join the second annual Adopt-A-Nest program! This is a fundraiser centered around sea turtle nesting season and the sea turtle program. Sponsors are given the opportunity to symbolically "Adopt-A-Nest."

Funds will assist in providing Lovers Key State Park with the needed supplies used to protect their nests. It will also help pay for other resource management needs within the park. There are four levels of sponsorship.

HATCHLING LEVEL \$20

Sponsors will have a laminated photo of a hatchling with donor's name on it in the "Lovers Key Nest Chamber" kiosk at the WDC for the entire nesting season. Does not include nest sign.

LOGGERHEAD LEVEL \$250

Sponsor will receive a personalized nest sign, certificate of adoption, nest photo, and adoption photo frame.

GREEN "Business" LEVEL \$500

Sponsor will receive a personalized nest sign displaying business logo, certificate of adoption, nest photo, and adoption photo frame.

LEATHERBACK LEVEL \$2500

Sponsor will receive a specialty designed and personalized nest sign that could include a photo, logo, or simply text, certificate of adoption, nest photo, adoption photo frame, a tour of the park by park staff, and a FOLKS merchandise package.



Upcoming July Events in the Park

8700 Estero Blvd

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY!

Beach & Estuary

Walk

9 AM - 10:30 AM

South Beach

Friday, July 4



Join a park ranger for a leisurely walk over the estuary and along the beach to discover the natural treasures of the Lovers Key Shoreline. Learn about seashells, crustaceans, starfish and other creatures that can be found in our waters.

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY

Shorebird Stroll

9 AM - 10:30 AM

South Beach

Friday, July 11



Join a park ranger on a guided walk down the shoreline and discover some of the birds that call the beach here at Lovers Key home. Learn helpful tips about how to identify these challenging birds while learning their diet, behavioral and nesting habits.

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY

Munchin' Manatees

10 AM - 11:00 AM

Community Room

Welcome and Discovery Center

Tuesday, July 15



Join a park ranger for an interesting and informative lecture on our local, lovable manatees. Learn what these magnificent mammals are all about, and how you can help protect them. Please note, live manatees are not included in this lecture.

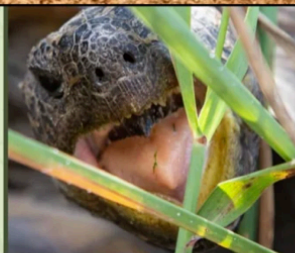
FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY

Walk *on the* Wild Side!

9 AM - 10:30 AM

Black Island Trail

Friday, July 18



Join a park ranger for a guided hike along our Black Island Trail. Learn about the fascinating vegetation and wildlife that reside in our maritime hammock ecosystem, explore our native butterfly garden, and enjoy a little local history along the way.

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY



Creature Feature!



Need to register

Mollusks

10 AM - 11 AM

Welcome and Discovery Center

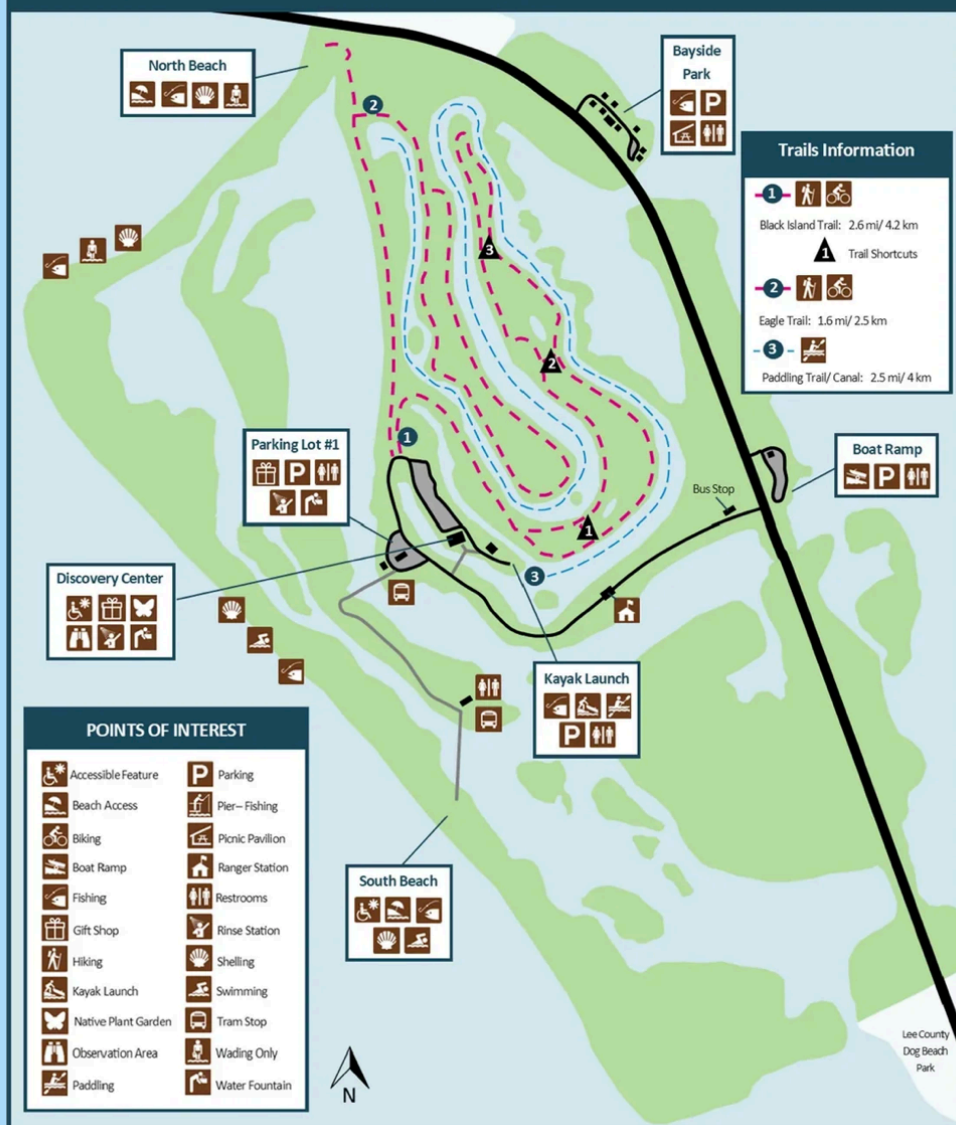
Calling all Junior Rangers! Ever wondered how mollusks build their shells or why they're so important to the beach? Join our program to explore these incredible sea creatures up close!

Paint your own colorful seashell, masterpiece to take home, then head down to the Junior Range Fort for story time!

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY

Registration Required

LOVERS KEY STATE PARK



Should you need assistance, please contact the Ranger Station at 239-707-6328

